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ABSTRACT

This bulletin, produced by the National Center for Educational Statistics, releases information collected by the School Staffing Survey, Spring 1970. The data base consisted of approximately 1,200 public elementary and secondary schools. Data presented include: Environmental Health courses, Pupils Enrolled in Environmental Health Courses, Environmental Health Occupation Courses, Comparative Course Offerings in Secondary Schools, and Comparative Enrollments in Secondary School Courses. The data indicated that about 23 percent of the public and elementary schools in the United States offered courses in environmental health. About 14 percent of the students were enrolled in such courses; twice as many elementary as secondary students were enrolled in such courses. (BB)

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BULLETIN

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ARE ENOUGH CHILDREN TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COURSES TODAY?

Environmental Health Courses

- About 23% of all public elementary and secondary schools* in the United States offered courses in Environmental Health** in 1969-70. About the same percentage of elementary as secondary schools offered such courses.

- Of the 43.7 million public elementary and secondary pupils* in the United States, 6.3 million (14%) were enrolled in Environmental Health courses. Proportionately twice as many elementary as secondary*** pupils were enrolled in these courses.

Pupils Enrolled in Environmental Health Courses

Elementary School Pupils
(23.9 million pupils=100%)

18% or
4.4 million pupils are enrolled in
Environmental Health courses.

Secondary School Pupils
(17.2 million pupils=100%)

9% or
1.6 million pupils are enrolled in
Environmental Health courses.

*Combined schools and pupils in combined schools with both elementary and secondary grades are included in the totals but not in the detail by school level.

**"Environmental Health" in this survey was defined as "learning experiences designed to help the pupil understand the effect upon man's health and well-being of such environmental factors as water supply, pollution control, food contamination, air pollution, radiation exposure, crowdedness, noise, and mobility."

***Secondary pupils include pupils in 7th and 8th grades which are administratively organized as part of secondary schools.

SE 011 355

- New data of unusual interest
- Special analyses of new developments
- Statistical highlights on educational issues

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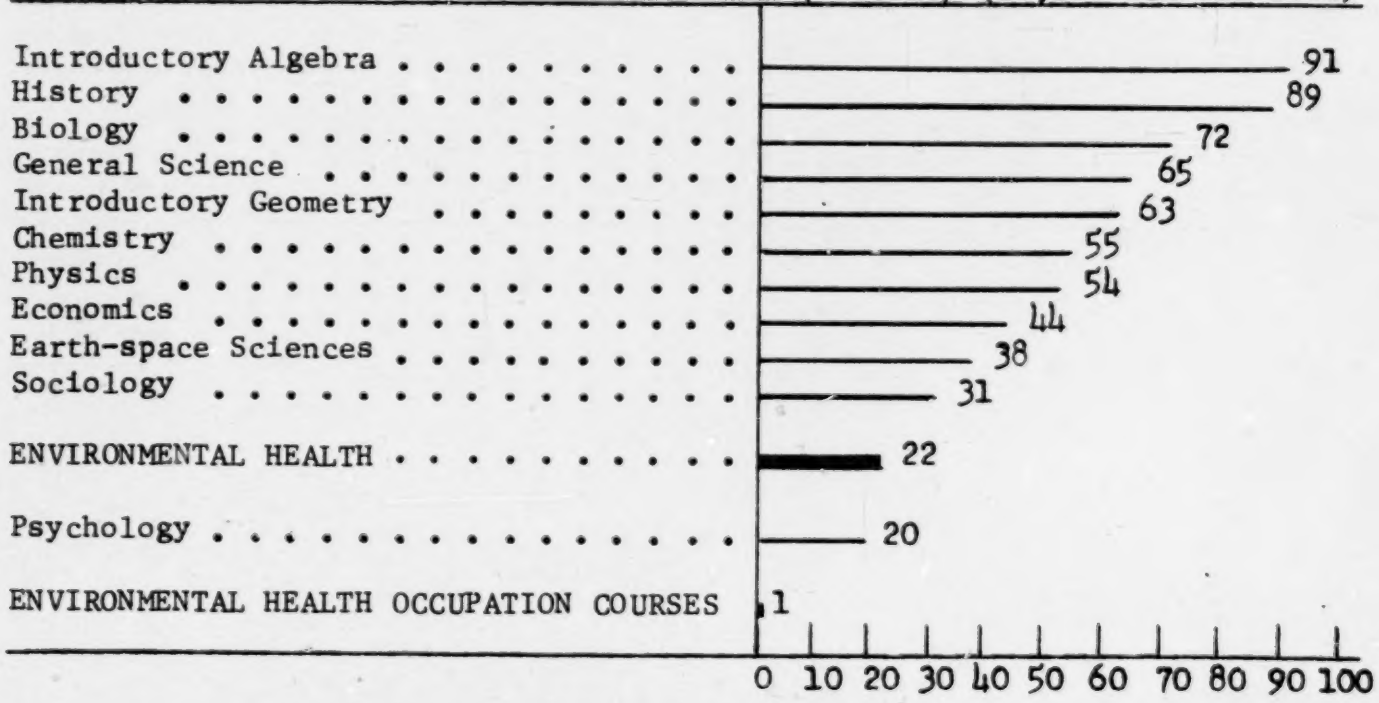
Environmental Health Occupation Courses

-In 1969-70, a few public secondary schools offered Environmental Health Occupation* courses. Only a very small number of secondary school pupils were enrolled in these courses.

Comparative Course Offerings in Secondary Schools

-In 1969-70, fewer public secondary schools offered Environmental Health courses than offered 10 of 12 other courses. Compared with the proportions of public secondary schools offering each of 11 other selected courses in science and mathematics, social science, and related subjects, the proportions of schools offering courses in Environmental Health was very low.

Percent of Secondary Schools Offering Selected Courses



*"Environmental Health Occupation course (radiological health technician, sanitarian assistant, etc.)" in this survey was defined as "a combination of subject matter and experiences designed to prepare a person, working under the supervision of a specialist, to recognize and evaluate environmental hazards such as radiation, fungi, air pollution, waste and sewage, noise, vibration, and poor lighting, and to prescribe methods of eliminating or controlling them."

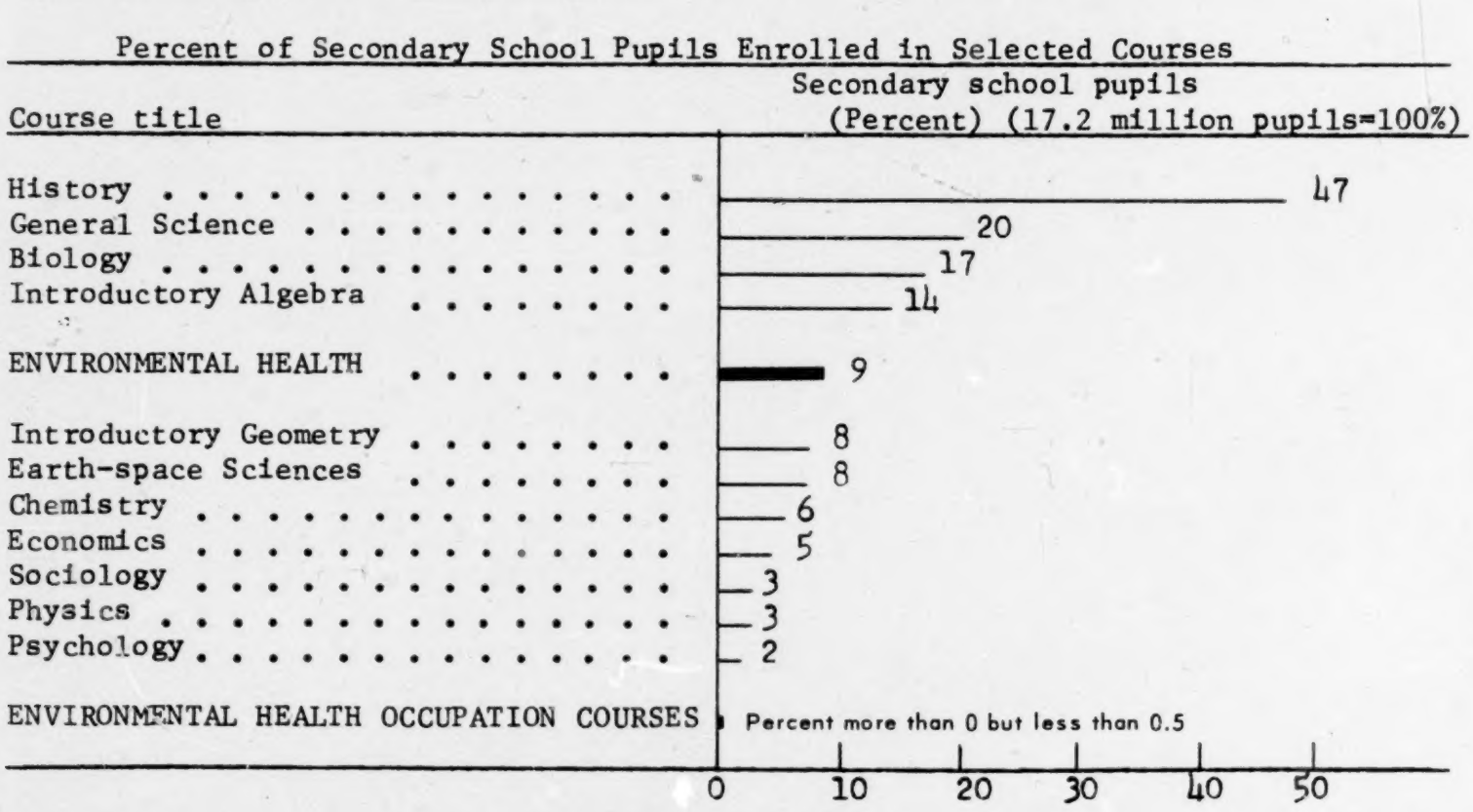
Comparative Enrollments in Secondary School Courses

- While but 9% of all public secondary school pupils were in Environmental Health courses, they represented a somewhat larger number of pupils than were enrolled in 7 of the 11 other selected secondary school courses; the four courses with larger enrollments have from about 50% to 400% more pupils enrolled.

In the 1969-70 sample survey, a slightly greater percent of secondary pupils were reported to be enrolled in Environmental Health than in Earth-space Sciences, Chemistry, or Physics. About twice as many secondary pupils were enrolled in General Science or Biology.

More secondary school pupils were enrolled in Environmental Health courses than in Sociology or Psychology which are also relatively "new" offerings in secondary schools.

Percent of Secondary School Pupils Enrolled in Selected Courses



- In secondary schools offering Environmental Health courses, on the average approximately 400 pupils per school were enrolled in these courses.

Source: The School Staffing Survey, Spring 1970. The survey was conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics, USOE, with support from the National Science Foundation and USOE Bureau of Educational Personnel Development and Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. The National Center for Educational Research and Development supported the pilot survey which preceded the 1970 survey. The data presented in this bulletin are preliminary. This is the first time statistics on Environmental Health courses have been gathered. No trends can be projected from them.

The Spring 1970 survey sample consisted of approximately 1,200 public elementary and secondary schools, representative of the Nation's 81,000 local public schools, by three strata: large cities (over 100,000 population as of the 1960 Census), the metropolitan areas surrounding these cities, and all other areas of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Schools in systems enrolling fewer than 300 pupils were excluded from the survey. Although the data presented here are based on a sample, they are not likely to differ by more than a few percentage points from the results that would have been obtained from a complete canvass of all public elementary and secondary schools. Specific measures of sampling reliability of the estimates will appear in a forthcoming report of the survey.

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